

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

APRIL 14, 2004

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on April 6, 2004, **JAMES D. CLOVER**, age 38, **JOSHUA T. SMITH**, age 25, and **WILLIAM E. GOLLIHER, JR.**, age 33, **MICHAEL L. REED**, age 49, **MICHAEL R. CRANE**, age 34, and **CINDY J. SIMS**, age 44, all of Grand Tower, Illinois, were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois, in a one-count superseding indictment, charging them with conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. The violation took place between February 2002, and March 9, 2004, in Grand Tower, Illinois. An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The conspiracy offense carries a penalty of between 5 and 40 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$2,000,000, and a term of 4 years supervised release.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Grand Tower Police Department, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses. The Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, Jackson County States Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, and Southern Illinois Enforcement Group.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.